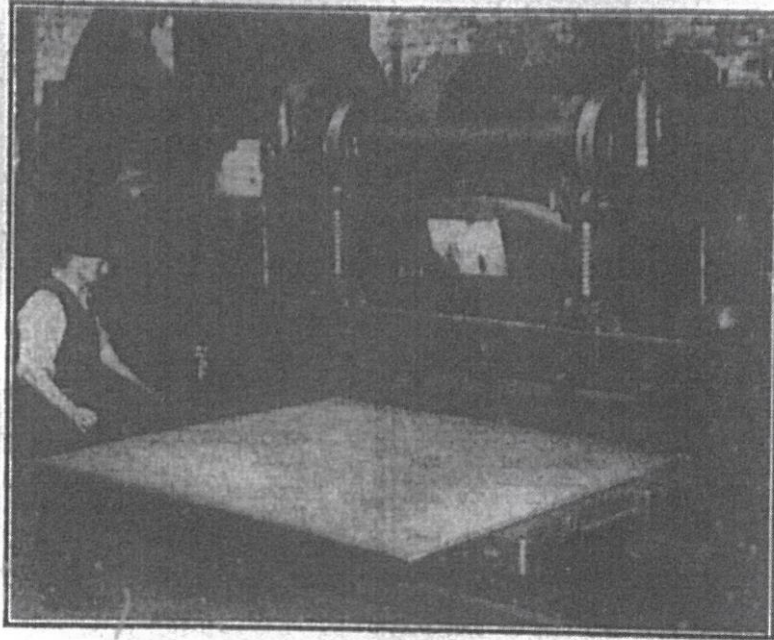


## LOCAL INDUSTRIES

(5) Messrs. T. H. & J. Daniels, Ltd.



THIS GUILLOTINE is capable of cutting sheet metal up to half an inch thick.

Messrs. T. H. and J. Daniels, Ltd., was established 98 years ago when Thomas Daniels, grandfather of the present chairman (Mr. J. S. Daniels) and of the Managing Director (Mr. F. L. Daniels), started business as a smithy in a small red brick building on Lightpill Hill. When he was not engaged in standard work he occupied himself with the manufacture of ornamental iron work, particularly for churches.

The business soon began to develop, and in the year 1860 the premises known as Fern Cottage and the adjacent land were purchased.

About this time Joseph Daniels joined his father. On the death of Thomas, Joseph went into partnership with his brother Thomas Henry, and the firm became known as T. H. and J. Daniels.

Machine shop, pattern shop and foundry were built and equipped, and millwrighting and general engineering for the neighbouring cloth and flour mills was carried on for a number of years.

Towards the end of last century, when the gas engine first came into prominence, the firm started to manufacture gas producer plants for the production of cheap power. These were shipped to all parts of the world in connection with the Dudbridge Gas Engine which was made at the Dudbridge Iron Works.

In 1904 a Limited Liability Company was formed. A little later the patents of the Gutermuth High Speed Pump were purchased and developed in the years preceding the war. Pumping sets were supplied to many of the Colonies and Dominions, particularly to Canada, and on the Canadian Pacific Railway as well as other great railways.

During the War, the firm was under the control of the Government, working on munitions. Since the war the suction gas plant has been superseded by oil, so the firm has had to look for new markets.

A large amount of manufacturing work is carried on for associated companies in London and high speed centrifugal machinery, automatic boiler control apparatus and water softening plant occupy nearly half of the firm's output.

The development of the Plastics industry has been closely followed by Daniels Ltd., and a large variety of Hydraulic Presses are made for the moulding of bakelite and other plastic including a plant for the manufacture of Casein (Erinoid).

The present works occupy an area of just over two acres and comprise pattern shop, pattern store, foundry, smithy, tank and structural shop, machine and erecting shops, and employ approximately 300 men and 60 on the office staff.

At the present time the firm has orders in hand for some months ahead, and in addition to the ordinary lines, they are manufacturing a number of high quality components for aircraft. During the early part of this year the firm supplied Windsor Castle with water softening apparatus, and have orders in hand for similar apparatus for Buckingham Palace and the new liner, Queen Elizabeth.

In 1887 the firm acquired the premises known as Middle Mills, Cam, for the manufacture of leather board, which is used extensively in the manufacture of suit cases and for stiffeners and shanks for the shoe trade. This part of the business celebrated its Jubilee last year.